American Airlines Newsroom

NEWS RELEASE

Professional Women in Aviation group gives scholarships to future aviator professionals

3/31/2017

Back in 1997, American Airlines employees launched the Professional Women in Aviation Employee Business Resource Group, which commits to the professional and personal development of its members by providing them with networking and community service opportunities in support of company goals. Over the years, chapters have sprung up across the country — there's even one in Toronto, Canada.

Earlier this month, several members of the group, as well as representatives from American's Engineering, Flight, Flight Service, Aircraft Maintenance, Dispatch and Human Resources departments, volunteered at the Women in Aviation, International conference in Orlando, Florida. American team members shared information about American and their area of expertise with attendees.

Women in Aviation International (WAI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the encouragement and advancement of women in all aviation career fields and interests. Its diverse membership isn't limited to women working in commercial aviation, as a matter of fact, it includes astronauts, corporate pilots, maintenance technicians, air traffic controllers, business owners, educators, journalists, flight attendants, high school and university students, air show performers, airport managers and many others.

This year marked its 28th annual conference, a time when members come together to mentor, network and share in WAI's trademark positive energy. Approximately 4,500 people from 19 countries converged on Lake Buena Vista, Florida, to see exhibits presented by 165 companies and organizations representing all aspects of the aviation community. A big part of the event is the awarding of scholarships to WAI members at every stage of their careers. American had the honor of awarding seven scholarships totaling $86,500:

- Chief Pilot Deborah Hecker presented two Boeing 737 Next Gen type ratings scholarships, each valued at $28,000, and one $7,000 flight education scholarship.
- John Beavers, managing director of Powerplant, APU & Component Engineering presented a $7,000 aircraft maintenance technology scholarship and a $7,000 engineering scholarship
- Captain Jim Palmersheim, senior manager, Veteran and Military Programs presented two Veteran's Initiative scholarships totaling $9,500 (one for $7,000 and one for $2,500) to a military veteran pursuing aviation/aeronautical education or training.

In the end, American and WAI had the opportunity to share in the common goal of providing networking, education, mentoring and scholarship opportunities for anyone striving for a career in the aviation and aerospace industry.